Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A <u>playback system</u> method for playing audio data from a storage device, <u>the audio data containing an access unit</u>, <u>the playback system</u> comprising:

receiving an access unit of audio data from the storage device;

a system circuit for determining a number of substreams present in the access unit;

a depacketizer circuit coupled to the system circuit for depacketizing the access unit; and

a decoder core,

wherein transmitting the depacketized access unit is transmitted directly to the a decoder core without buffering[[;]].

the decoder core decodes decoding the depacketized access unit by the decoder core for a first substream of the access unit if the number of the substreams is more than one[[;]], and

the decoder core decodes decoding the depacketized access unit by the same decoder core for a second substream of the access unit after the first substream is decoded if the number of the substreams is more than one.

19. (Currently amended) The <u>playback system</u> method of claim 18, wherein the storage device is of DVD-Audio format.

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- 20. (Currently amended) The <u>playback system</u> method of claim 19, wherein the <u>decoding decoder decodes</u> the first substream comprises in part by extracting a restart header for determining timing for executing the decoding the second substream.
- 21. (Currently amended) The <u>playback system</u> method of claim 20, wherein the <u>decoding</u> decoder decodes the first substream and the <u>decoding</u> the second substream <u>both comprise</u> using Meridian Lossless Packing ® (MLP) decoding.
- 22. (Currently amended) The <u>playback system</u> method of claim 19, wherein the depacketizer performs the depacketizing comprising comprises:

reading a major sync;

reading a minor sync; and

reading a substream directory so as to determine the number of the substreams present in the access unit.

23. (Currently amended) The <u>playback system</u> method of claim 22, wherein the <u>depacketizing</u>, the <u>decoding the first substream</u> and the <u>decoding the second</u> substream <u>depacketizer</u> and the <u>decoder core</u> are implemented in a digital signal processor.